



DIST: 25 AUGUST 1982

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE
REPORT CLASS: [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: US

SUBJECT: 1. SOVIET USE OF COMMON PRISONERS FOR PIPELINE AND PUMP-
ING STATION CONSTRUCTION
2. USE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR LABORIOUS TASKS
3. PRISONER LODGING IN MOBILE WAGONS (DOI: 1970-1979)

REF:

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. IN AS LATE AS 1979, THE USSR WAS USING COMMON PRISONERS TO CONSTRUCT CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS PIPELINES AND PUMPING AND COMPRESSOR STATIONS. NORMALLY, POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE NOT USED IN ANY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION EXCEPT TO DO LABOR INTENSIVE TASKS IN ISOLATED OR HARD TO REACH AREAS WHERE HEAVY EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE USED. POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE ALWAYS SEPARATED FROM OTHER PRISONERS AND REGULAR WORKERS DURING THE FEW TIMES THEY WORKED TOGETHER ON THE SAME CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO ENSURE UNWANTED IDEALS WERE NOT PASSED ON TO OTHERS. PAROLED COMMON CRIMINALS FREQUENTLY WORKED ON THE PIPELINES AND PUMPING STATIONS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT WANTED BACK IN THE CITY WHERE THEY WERE ORIGINALLY SENTENCED, AND BECAUSE WAGES WERE GOOD.

2. COMMON PRISONERS WERE USUALLY SUPPLIED BY THE JUDICIAL COURTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF THE CONSTRUCTION. LABOR QUOTAS WERE PASSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION TO THE LOCAL COURTS FOR FULFILLMENT. CONVICTED PRISONERS SERVING SENTENCES UP TO FIVE YEARS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR INCARCERATION WITH MANY CONTINUING ON FOLLOWING THEIR TERM. CONVICTED PRISONERS SERVING SENTENCES LONGER THAN FIVE YEARS WERE SENT BY THE COURT TO REGULAR PRISONS AND LABOR CAMPS.

3. PRISONERS WERE PAID ABOUT ONE-THIRD THE NORMAL 250 RUBLES PER MONTH PAID TO NON-CONVICT WORKERS. OUT OF THIS PAY, EACH PRISONER HAD TO BUY FOOD FROM A LOCAL CANTEEN AND COOK IT IN HIS WAGON HOUSE. AT SOME CONSTRUCTION SITES MESS HALLS WERE PROVIDED, AND THE COST OF SUCH MEALS TOOK THE PRISONERS' ENTIRE MONTHLY PAY. PRISONERS ALWAYS LIVED ALONG WITH REGULAR WORKERS IN WAGON LODGINGS NORMALLY ACCOMMODATING FOUR OCCUPANTS. THE WAGONS MEASURED ABOUT 12 METERS (M) LONG BY TWO M WIDE BY 3.5 M HIGH. THE WAGONS WERE GROUPED TOGETHER IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER WITHIN A GUARDED WIRE FENCE NEAR THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. WORKERS DEPARTED THE FENCED COMPOUNDS IN THE MORNINGS AND RETURNED IN THE EVENING FOLLOWING WORK. PRISONERS WERE ALWAYS UNDER GUARD, BUT ACTUAL CHECKS BY THE SECURITY GUARDS WAS COMPLETED ONLY TWICE WEEKLY.

4. PRISONERS AND THEIR WAGON LODGINGS MOVED AS THE ACTUAL PIPELINE OR PUMPING STATION CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED. WAGON COMPOUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH PUMPING AND COMPRESSOR STATIONS NORMALLY STAYED SEMI-PERMANENT DURING THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION.

5. COMMENT: SOURCE WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED, BASED ON HIS MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN SUPERVISING PIPELINE AND COMPRESSOR STATION CONSTRUCTION, IF POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIBERIA TO WESTERN EUROPE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE. HE REITERATED THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS MIGHT BE USED IN COLD OR MARSHY AREAS TO CLEAR TIMBER OR LEVEL EARTH, BUT THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH OTHER COMMON PRISONERS OR REGULAR WORKERS FOR FEAR OF SUBVERSION. HE SAID POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD PROBABLY NEVER BE USED OUTSIDE THE ISOLATED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THEIR INTERNMENT.

6. ACO: (AUGUST 1982)

7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]